

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 00843 161135Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 IGA-01 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02

DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /087 W

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R 161108Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9869

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO COMUSMACTHAI

USSAG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MILI, TH

SUBJECT: RICE FOR CAMBODIA: AIRDROP SUPPLY

REF: (1) STATE 6318; (2) BANGKOK 535

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD URGED CONTINGENCY PLANNING, WE ALSO CONTINUED TO HAMMER AWAY AT THAI ON BEHALF USE OF PL 480 RICE FOR CAMBODIAN AIRDROP. THIS CAMPAIGN SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED. FOLLOWING UP ON AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSTATION WITH GENERAK KRIANGSAK DURING MAW VISIT (REF 2) DURING WHICH KRIANGSAK AGREED TO USE OF PL 480 RICE SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE, WE APPROACHED THOSE TWO MINISTRIES. AS REPORTED, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAD NO OBJECTION. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THAT MINAG HAS NO INTEREST IN MATTER, SINCE MILLED RICE IS ENTIRELY WITHIN PROVINCE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 00843 161135Z

2. WE THUS HAVE FROM KEY THAI GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WHAT APPEARS TO BE AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE TO PERMIT TRANSSHIPMENT OF PL 480
RICE VIA THAILAND TO CAMBODIA "IN SMALL QUANTITIES".

3. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE THAT PROCEDURAL
DIFFICULTIES WILL NOT ARISE DESPITE AGREEMENT IN
PRINCIPLE. WE HOPE TO NAIL THIS DOWN SHORTLY BY
GETTING SUPREME COMMAND TO AGREE TO CONTINUE TO
PROCESS PORT CLEARANCE PAPER WORK AS IN PAST
(ALTHOUGH HOPEFULLY WITH LESS CONFUSION). SINCE,
HOWEVER, BUREAUCRATIC FUMBLING IS THE NORM HERE,
IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT A) INCOMING SHIPMENTS
OF PL 480 RICE BE MADE BEFORE STOCKS FALL
TO PERILOUSLY LOW LEVELS; AND B) WE BE GIVEN SUFFI-
CIENT ADVANCE NOTICE (AT LEAST TWO WEEKS) OF
ARRIVAL OF CARGO AT PORT.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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